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Approved For Release 2004/04/08 : CIA-RDP64B00346R000100230024-4

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

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May 7, 1962

TOP SECRET

The Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCone:

Members of my subcommittee have recently had occasion to refresh their recollection with respect to the Cuban landings of April 1961. A careful study of the transcript indicates we did not receive information in answer to the following questions:

1. Why did Cuban invader air strikes - contemplated as a part of the original planning; - not take place? Why and by whom were they cancelled?
2. Was air support by U. S. aircraft ever programmed, or promised to the Cuban invaders, by responsible U. S. authorities? If so, why and by whom was such air support cancelled?

Our review of the hearing transcript indicates that virtually every member of the Committee and virtually every witness believed that the absence of adequate air support was one of the most critical factors, if not the most critical factor, in the failure of the invasion. For that reason I would like to have in writing your answers to the above questions so our record may be complete.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne Morse, Chairman
Subcommittee on American
Republics Affairs

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

Senator Morse, in the attached letter, asks why and by whom were the air strikes which had been planned for the air invasion cancelled. He also asks if air support by U.S. aircraft was ever programmed or promised and if so why and by whom was it cancelled.

In the hearings before the Committee on Foreign Relations on 2 May 1961, Mr. Bissell indicated that support by U.S. aircraft "was never included really in any plan" for the invasion. With regard to the question of cancellation of programmed air strikes, Colonel King advises that both General Taylor and Mr. Robert Kennedy carefully avoided questions relating to this point.

Lawrence R. Houston
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

7 May 62
(DATE)

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